



# **SOC 325** **Sociology of Education**

**Christina Steidl TR 3:55-5:15 PM**

**A critical look at how education works in the U.S.**

Although we think of schools as helping to provide equal opportunities for all, much sociological research suggests that schools end up sorting students according to their family background—effectively reproducing the inequality that exists in society at large. This course takes a critical look at how education works in the U.S. We will explore both theoretical and empirical approaches, asking what and how students learn, the function of schools in society, and how the educational system in the U.S. interacts with political, economic, cultural and family institutions. We will examine research on specific topics like college admissions, No Child Left Behind, and charter schools. Throughout all of these issues and topics, we will examine how schools both challenge and support existing systems of inequality.

**More information: [soc@uah.edu](mailto:soc@uah.edu) or 256.824.6190**